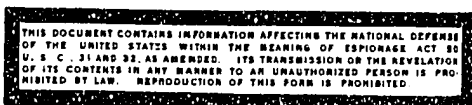


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[Comment: The following is the complete text of an article written by the Vienna correspondent of the Berliner Morgenpost, 31 Jan 53. It is to be noted that there is specific mention of a pipeline running north to Czechoslovakia.]

"We also could use a Mossadeq to give us back our oil," say the Austrians, pointing to the blue tanks erected on the streets and highways by "Orep" of the SMV (Sowjetische Mineraloel Verwaltung, Soviet Petroleum Administration). These tanks actually are the tentacles of the purely monopolistic and capitalistic Zistersdorf oil concern.

This monster is devouring more oil every year. On orders from Moscow, oil derrick after oil derrick is being erected without respect for the most fertile land. When the USSR confiscated the Austrian oil fields as "German property" in 1945, their annual production was 450,000 tons. In 1952, six times as much oil (2.7 million tons) was produced. The 500 oil and economic experts of the Petroleum Commission are bent on reaping the greatest benefits.

What is actually happening in this huge Zistersdorf oil district, the extremities of which are already reaching the suburbs of Vienna, is known to only a few. An armed guard prevents curious eyes from seeing too much. All that can be seen from the outside are new derricks, railroad tracks, and new pipelines, one of which leads north to Czechoslovakia. "Zistersdorf is the most dangerous cancer in our economy," the Austrian Institute for Economic Research declares, and cites the following figures: From 1945 until today the Soviets have produced a total of 10,800,000 tons of oil. Forty-two percent of this production went to Austria, in other words, Austria had to buy its own oil from the USSR. Based on the world oil price, the total earnings of the USSR has been between 150 and 160 million dollars.

The SMV is considered an extraterritorial Allied concern and pays neither taxes nor duties to Austria. On the other hand, the Austrian taxpayer has to carry the entire cost of the operation of the oil fields, the transportation facilities, and the salaries of all the employees of the SMV under "occupation costs."

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Since 1945, the USSR has systematically made the Danube between the Austrian and Rumanian oil fields the great oil artery of Eastern Europe. All Austrian, Hungarian, Rumanian, and Bulgarian tankers have long been in Soviet possession, or are run directly by the USSR through so-called mixed companies.

The Austrian government has been defending itself with all its might against the encroachment of this monster, but the latter simply goes on gnawing at the vital organs of this poor country's economy.

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